

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

Pending as of 11/7/77  
Entered 8/16/77

NAGI # 0700915204

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Branton Manor

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2819 Old Liberty Road

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

☒ VICINITY OF

Sixth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Carroll

CODE

013

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RES. DENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Gough W. T. Bolton

STREET &amp; NUMBER

2819 Old Liberty Road

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21784

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Court for Carroll County'

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Westminster,

STATE

Maryland 21157

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CARR-91

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Branton Manor is located just south of Maryland Route 26, opposite its intersection with Mineral Hill Road in the Freedom District of Carroll County. The house was constructed in three sections of stucco-covered stone, of which two sections probably date from the 18th century.

The east section is two stories with a gable roof and a large stone interior chimney at the east end. The south elevation once had a full-length pent roof between the first and second stories. The stone below the pent roofline is not stuccoed, and the second-story floor joists that extended to support the roof are now exposed. The fenestration of this elevation is asymmetrical, with an entrance near the center of the facade, a six-over-six pane sash window to the west of the entrance, and a four-pane casement window to the east on the first floor and two four-pane casement windows on the second floor. The north elevation has two six-over-six windows on the first story and two three-over-six windows on the second story. The interior main floor of this section presently contains a kitchen and a bathroom, with an enclosed stair on the partition wall between the two rooms. The second floor contains a bedroom, dressing room and bath.

The 2 1/2-story central section appears to be the latest in date of build. It has a gable roof with an interior brick chimney on the east end. The south elevation has two six-over-six pane sash windows with louvered shutters on both stories and a single gable dormer on the roof. The west gable end has an entrance on the south side within the porch of the west section of the house. The north elevation has a single six-over-six pane sash window on each story and a single gable dormer. The main floor of this section has a passage hall on the north side and a dining room on the south. The second floor has the master bedroom with a hall stairway leading to a bedroom in the half-story.

The west section of the house is 1 1/2 stories with a gable roof which flares out on the south elevation to form a porch roof. There are two gable dormers on each side of the roof. Brick chimney stacks are located in the center of the south wall and on the south side of the west gable end. The south elevation is asymmetrical with entrances in the outer bays and a single six-over-six pane sash window on the east side of the west entrance. The west gable end has a six-over-six pane sash window on the south side of the house and a four-over-four window in the gable. The north elevation has a central entrance and six-over-six windows to each side. This section has a two-room plan on the main floor with a corner fireplace on the south partition wall corner of each room and enclosed corner staircases in each room cater-cornered to the fireplace. In the half-story are two bedrooms.

The interior contains much of its original woodwork and hardware, along with some modern alterations. The central section has molded door and window frames with flat corner blocks. The door surrounds leading from

See Continuation Sheet #1

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Branton Manor  
Carroll County,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

the passage hall are paneled. The dining room mantel has pilaster strips supporting a paneled frieze and a molded shelf. The west section has molded window frames which continue to the baseboard, paneled window surrounds and partially exposed summer beams chamfered with scroll stops. Carpenter locks are on the major doors, and wrought hardware on the staircase doors.

The overall exterior appearance of Branton Manor is quite mixed, with each section having a different style and roofline. Judging from architectural characteristics, the west section is the original main house. This resembles the 1 1/2-story, two-room plan that was a prominent tidewater Maryland house form during the 18th century, although its chimney placement is unusual. The east section was its accompanying out kitchen which might be altered from its original shape; this structure is German in appearance. The central section is a later addition to both structures, probably constructed in the early 19th century, and resembles the Federal style of that time.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	__ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__ COMMUNITY PLANNING	__ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__ RELIGION		
1400-1499	__ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__ CONSERVATION	__ LAW	__ SCIENCE		
1500-1599	__ AGRICULTURE	__ ECONOMICS	__ LITERATURE	__ SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__ EDUCATION	__ MILITARY	__ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	__ ART	__ ENGINEERING	__ MUSIC	__ THEATER		
1800-1899	__ COMMERCE	__ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__ PHILOSOPHY	__ TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	__ COMMUNICATIONS	__ INDUSTRY	__ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__ OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		__ INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Branton Manor is interesting for its odd combination of three architectural styles and for some of the features of its different structures. The central section is very narrow, apparently built to fit the space between the two earlier sections. Though smaller than many of its type, it is a representative of the Federal Style so popular throughout Carroll County and other areas of Maryland from the late 18th century until the third and fourth decades of the 19th century. The west section is one of the few examples in Carroll County of a tidewater house form common elsewhere in 18th-century Maryland. The section is unusual in the house form, though, having two corner chimneys rather than end chimneys and being constructed of stone rather than the more common brick and frame. The other 18th century section to the west of the center is a German house type with evidence of a pent roof, its asymmetrical fenestration and its smaller scale second story. In addition to these factors in relation to style, Branton Manor appears to be largely unaltered (except for the east section).

The first section was built circa 1766 by John Baptiste Snowden on part of a tract of land called Watson's Trust. Originally patented to Thomas Watson in 1748 for 50 acres, Watson's Trust was resurveyed in 1750-51 for 988 acres. Snowden, of St. Mary's County, purchased 115 acres of Watson's Trust from Benjamin Wayger and 100 acres of The Escape from Robert Gilchrist in 1765 and "removed to the vicinity on a farm which he called Branton, on which he built a house of cut straw and clay" (The Monumental City, p. 892). He expanded his land holdings in 1767 to include 125 additional acres of Watson's Trust which he purchased from Henry Crooks.

From the records in the Hall of Records and the Maryland Historical Society, a very sketchy genealogy on the John Baptiste Snowden Family was produced. It appears that Snowden married Mary (family name unknown) and they had two offspring, Susanna and Francis. Marriage records show that Susanna married Elias Dorsey on June 2, 1779. Francis was born in 1757, married Eleanor Miles of St. Mary's, and died in 1812. He was a colonel, Justice of the Peace (1795-1807) and Commissioner (1791). Francis added to the family land holdings with the purchases of Snowden's Cockermouth (365a.) 1794, Spring Road (1 1/4a.) 1794, Trevis Luck (123a.), Conoway's Venture (40a.) 1778, New Tavern (14 1/8a.) 1796, and Snowden's Farm (411 1/4 a.) 1803. Eleanor and Francis had possibly nine children--Frances, Jr. (?), Henry, Susannah, Elizabeth, Theresa, Mary E., Joseph,

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

John B. (?), and Samuel B. (?). Henry was also a Colonel and was one of the defenders of Baltimore in 1812. He commanded a troop of horse (captain) at North Point and was commissioned Captain of the 6th Cavalry district 29 in January, 1814. Henry married Elizabeth Frederick of Green Lawn, Kentucky on June 17, 1839 and died on December 31, 1868. Susannah married Thomas Cockey Brown at "Branton Hall" on April 23, 1811. Elizabeth married Basil Spalding Elder in 1801. Theresa married John D. Locke, Jr.; Mary E. married Moses Brown in 1797. John B. (?) married Roby Gill on December 22, 1804. He was a clerk of the Court for Baltimore County and a member of the House of Delegates in 1817 and 1818. Joseph was bound by his father to serve apprenticeship under Thomas Usher, a Baltimore Inn Merchant, on May 14, 1796 for a term of 3 years 10 months. This is the only evidence I was able to find that might substantiate Mrs. Jeannie S. Marfield's advertising brochure which states that "In the exciting days of 1812 the house was used as an inn and was a favorite rendezvous of Francis Scott Key on his journey from Baltimore to Keysville, his family home." Elizabeth Key, Francis Scott Key's granddaughter, owned part of the property in the 1820's. I am uncertain if this included Branton. Mention of her ownership and of her father before her is made in a research paper written by Mrs. Passano, D.A.R., for the Historical Society of Carroll County. [An adjoining neighbor, Ollan Reynolds confirmed the validity of the last three paragraphs of this article.] At the death of Joseph Snowden in 1817, his estate, which included Branton, was bought by Robert Gilmer at a public auction held in the Merchant's Coffee House in Baltimore on February 25, 1817. In 1825 Branton passed into the hands of the Hollingsworth family: Edward Ireland and Jesse Hollingsworth.

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

## UTM REFERENCES

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Nelson M. Bolton/ Joseph Getty  
ORGANIZATION

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

April/May 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE Home 385-0746

218 E. Churchill Street/212 York Street

Work 727-4000 x8192

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Baltimore/Manchester

Maryland 21230/21102

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

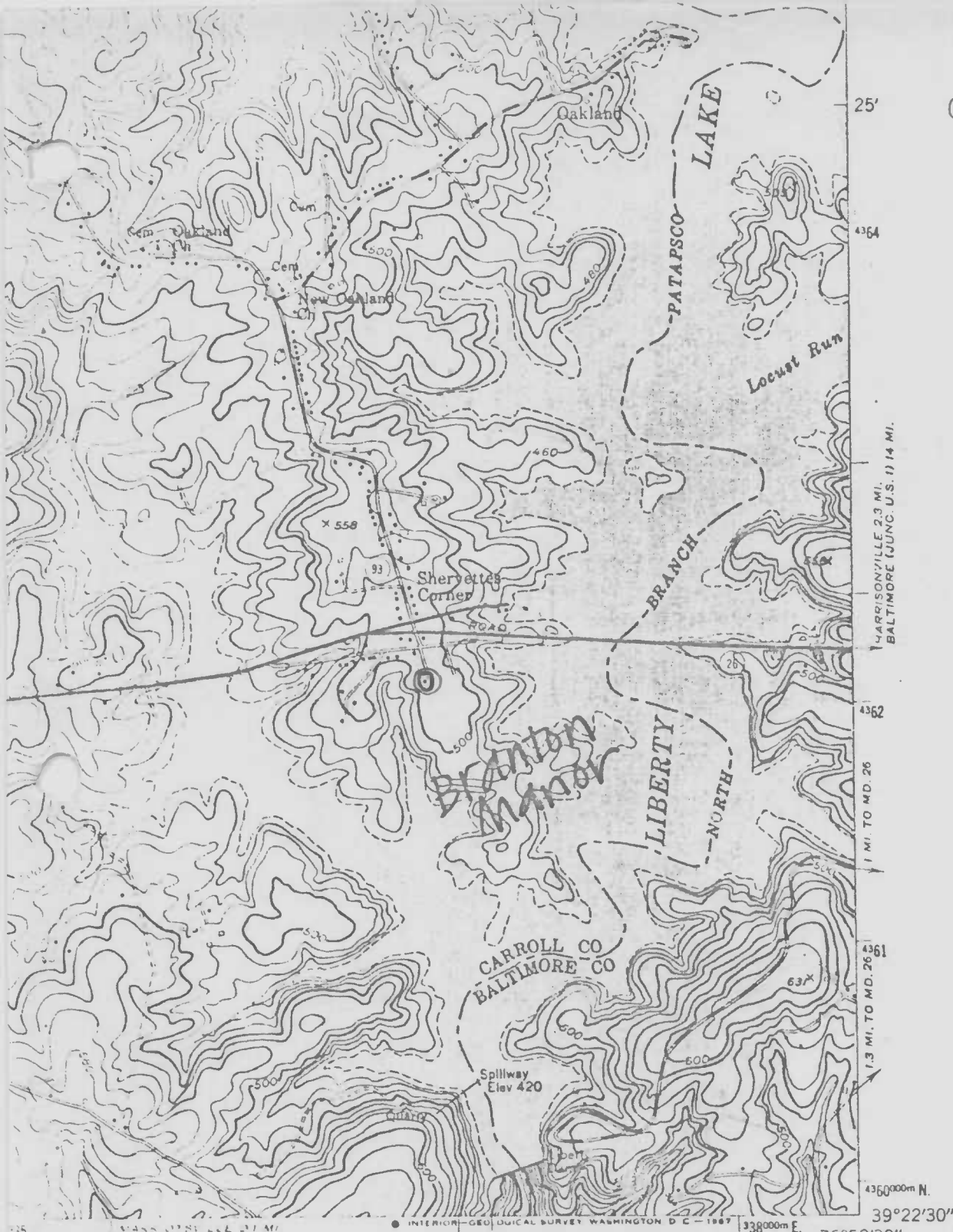
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

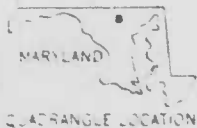
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- |             |           |                 |       |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy duty  | —————     | Light-duty      | ————— |
| Medium-duty | - - - - - | Unimproved dirt | ..... |
| U. S. Route | ○         | State Route     | ○     |



FINKSBURG, MD.

NW 1/4 ELLICOTT 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3922.5—W7652.5/7.5

1953

Carroll Co.

AMS 5662 IV NW—SERIES V833





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Branton Manor

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
LIBRARY**



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2nd Oldest Section



CARR-91

Oldest Section